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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

512 10/029, 073
6-04 5764
National application No.

PCT/DK 00/00557

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: A61L 15/28, A61L 15/60

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: A61L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0627225 A2 (HÜLS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT), 7 December 1994 (07.12.94) --	1-13
A	WO 9729132 A1 (MERCK PATENT GMBH), 14 August 1997 (14.08.97) --	1-13
A	WO 9846818 A1 (BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB COMPANY), 22 October 1998 (22.10.98) -- -----	1-13

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

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"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 January 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

23.02.01

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

04/12/00

International application No.

PCT/DK 00/00557

Patent document cited in search report			Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP	0627225	A2	07/12/94	AT	196257 T	15/09/00
				DE	4318094 A	08/12/94
				DE	59409517 D	00/00/00
				JP	7096181 A	11/04/95
				US	5496933 A	05/03/96

WO	9729132	A1	14/08/97	AU	1545797 A	28/08/97
				DE	19604706 A	14/08/97
				EP	0879248 A	25/11/98
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				AU	2386297 A	11/11/98
				EP	0925396 A	30/06/99
				JP	2000510539 T	15/08/00

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

To:

Commissioner
 US Department of Commerce
 United States Patent and Trademark
 Office, PCT
 2011 South Clark Place Room
 CP2/5C24
 Arlington, VA 22202
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
 in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 14 June 2001 (14.06.01)	
International application No. PCT/DK00/00557	Applicant's or agent's file reference 99016-WO
International filing date (day/month/year) 04 October 2000 (04.10.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 07 October 1999 (07.10.99)
Applicant NIELSEN, Brian	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
 20 March 2001 (20.03.01)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was
☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Charlotte ENGER Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
12 April 2001 (12.04.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/24840 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: A61L 15/28, 15/60

(21) International Application Number: PCT/DK00/00557

(22) International Filing Date: 4 October 2000 (04.10.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
PA 1999 01446 7 October 1999 (07.10.1999) DK

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

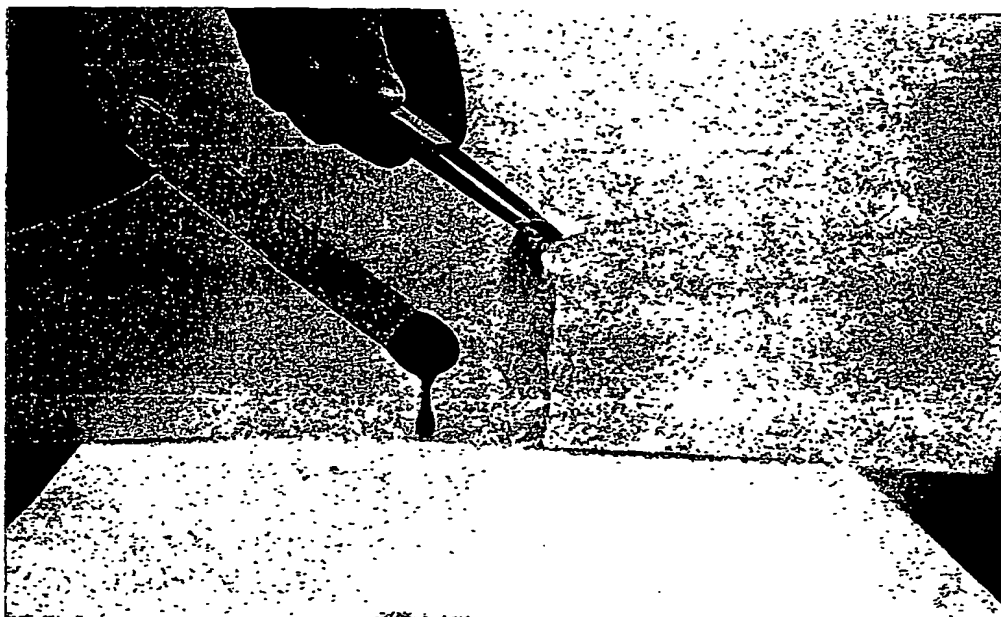
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- With international search report.
- Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: WOUND CARE DEVICE



(57) Abstract: Wound care device comprising chitosan, said chitosan being capable of absorbing liquid to form a swollen, coherent gel, and said chitosan being in the form of fibres having been modified by treatment with acid in a solvent which is not able to dissolve the chitosan fibres and by treatment with heat.

WO 01/24840 A1

TITLE

Wound care device

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a wound care device comprising chitosan, said
5 chitosan being capable of absorbing liquid to form a swollen, coherent gel, and a
method of preparation of the same.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In the treatment of exuding wounds there is a need for an absorbent dressing
being capable of adapting to the conformation of the individual wound. This may
10 be done by using fibre dressings or hydrogels.

Wound care devices comprising fibres may be based on polysaccharide fibres,
which are usually water insoluble, but water absorbing. They are in general
based on alginate or CMC. Wound care products such as dressings or fillers
based on alginate or CMC , may be able to absorb up to 15-25 g exudate/gram
15 product, with limited swellability and gellability. These fibre dressings/fillers are
normally supplied as sterile.

The use of fibres often suffers from the drawback of a limited absorption and/or
lack of cohesion, leading to difficulties with respect to removing the fibre product
from the wound as the product does not constitute a cohesive part.

20 Methods of preparing alginate fibres are well known. Normally sodium alginate is
completely converted into insoluble calcium alginate fibres. Methods for enhanc-
ing the solubility of alginate fibres are also well known. International Patent Appli-
cation No. WO 94/17227 discloses a method for preparing highly absorbent
alginate fibres by conversion of calcium alginate fibres into alginic acid fibres.

25 In International Patent Application No. WO 94/16746 is disclosed a process of
preparing carboxy methyl cellulose fibres which are gellable, but still coherent
enough to be removed from a wound in one piece.

European Patent Application No. 627 225 discloses a method for preparing a superabsorbent chitosan powder, being capable of absorbing liquid many times its own weight by forming a transparent gel. This is done by treating the powdery chitosan with an acid, preferably a hydroxy carbon acid like lactic acid or hydroxy butyric acid. The resulting powder is capable of absorbing high amounts of water by forming a gel.

The acid-modified chitosan disclosed in EP 627 225 A2 is suitable for use as a superabsorbent in diapers and like products, in which the powdered material will be encapsulated and little or no coherence is demanded. However, the reference is silent with respect to preparation of highly coherent material, for use in e.g. wound care products.

Published Japanese Patent Application No. JP 9-69654-A discloses a method for preparing partly deacetylated chitin fibres for wound care. The preferred chitin material has a deacetylation degree of max. 90 %, preferably 40 - 60 %. The material is not used as an absorbent, but as a haemostatic agent for stopping bleeding wounds.

In European Patent Application No. 171 254 is disclosed chitin fibres being treated in an aqueous solution with acid and elevated temperature. The fibres remain their structure due to the fact that chitin is not soluble in an acidic aqueous solution.

Contrary to chitin, chitosan is soluble in an acidic aqueous solution.

International Patent Application No. 97/29132 discloses chitosan being dissolved in a weak acidic aqueous solution. The chitosan is treated with a carboxylic acid polyanhydride as a cross-linking agent. The resulting hydrogel may subsequently be processed into powders or fibres.

Thus, there still is a need for a wound care device comprising a material being capable of absorbing large amount of liquid by gelling, having a

three-dimensional structure in the form of fibres, and having a high degree of cohesion after absorption. The need is fulfilled by the wound care device of the present invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- 5 The present invention relates to a wound care device comprising chitosan, said chitosan being capable of absorbing liquid to form a swollen, coherent gel.

The present invention further relates to a method of preparation of a wound care device comprising chitosan being capable of absorbing liquid to form a swollen, coherent gel.

10 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- The invention relates to a wound care device comprising chitosan, said chitosan being capable of absorbing liquid to form a swollen, coherent gel, and said chitosan being in the form of fibres having been modified by treatment with acid in a solvent which is not able to dissolve the chitosan fibres and by treatment with
- 15 heat.

The fibrous structure of the chitosan according to the present invention may provide a essential coherence for use in a wound dressing. When used as e.g. a wound contacting fabric, it is important that the absorbent material is coherent rendering it possible to remove the wound dressing in one piece from the wound.

- 20 A fibre is in this application defined as an elongated member wherein the proportion between length and diameter of the member is at least 25. This definition includes filaments as well.

- Chitosan fibres may be used as raw material. In principle, all types of chitosan fibres may be used. The preparation of the modified chitosan fibres according to
- 25 the invention may be optimised depending on the quality of the raw material. Parameters such as fibre diameter, molecular weight of chitosan, degree of deacetylation and source or origin of the chitosan may influence on the process.

Chitosan fibres are usually made from chitosan of a relatively low molecular weight.

It is preferred that the molecular weight of the chitosan used for the preparation of the wound care device according to the present invention is less than 750.000,
5 more preferred less than 400.000, and even more preferred less than 250.000, and most preferred less than 175.000.

Most preferred is chitosan with a molecular weight lower than 300.000.

Chitosan fibres suitable for use in this invention are fibres with a deacetylation degree above 65 %, more preferred above 75 % and most preferred above 85
10 %.

The viscosity of the chitosan used according to the invention may preferably be less 1000 cP, more preferred less than 500, even more preferred less than 300. The most preferred viscosity is from 40 to 200 cps. The viscosity is measured on a 1% w/w chitosan dissolved in an aqueous solution of 1% w/w acetic acid on a
15 Brookfield LVT viscometer, 25°C, appropriate spindle at 30 rpm.

Preferably, the fibres are having a minimum average length of 3 mm. The preferred proportion between length and diameter of the fibres is at least 25, more preferred at least 80 and most preferred at least 200.

The invention also relates to a method of preparation of a wound care device
20 comprising chitosan being capable of absorbing liquid to form a swollen, coherent gel, said method comprises the steps of
a) suspending the chitosan in the form of fibres in a non-solvent comprising acid
b) isolating the resulting modified chitosan fibres from the non-solvent
c) treating the chitosan fibres with heat during step a) or/and b).

25 Th chitosan is according to the present invention modified by treatment with acid and heat. This treatment is converting the chitosan fibres from a water

insoluble, non swelling and non gelling state into chitosan fibres which are water swelling, water gelling but still substantially water insoluble and with a coherent structure.

By the terms water swelling, water gelling but substantially water-insoluble is
5 meant that when the fibres are contacted with an aqueous liquid, such as wound exudate, they will absorb liquid and swell by forming a gel. The fibre structure will still be detectable. The fibres will turn from non-transparent into relative transparent fibres. The fibres are not completely water-insoluble (few molecules may dissolve), but the material is sufficient water-insoluble and coherent to render it
10 possible to remove the fibres from a wound in one piece.

The non-solvents used according to the present invention may be any non-solvent to chitosan. Preferably, the non-solvent has a boiling point higher than 50 °C and even more preferred a boiling point between 60 and 250 °C.

Suitable acids for this embodiment of the invention may be any low molecular
15 organic acid.

The preferred acids are organic acids such as formic, acetic, halogen acetic acids (such as fluoro or chloro acetic acid), propanoic, propenoic, lactic, acrylic glyoxylic, pyruvic or a hydroxy propionic/butanic acid.

The more preferred organic acids used for modification of the chitosan fibres in
20 the wound care device according to the invention may be a hydroxy or acyl organic acid, which is soluble in the used non-solvent, preferably glucolic, glyoxylic, pyruvic, lactic or a hydroxy propionic/butanic acid.

The most preferred acid is lactic acid.

Preferably, the quantity of acid used in the modification process according to the
25 present invention is from 2 mmol to 20 mmol per gram chitosan, more preferred from 3 to 15 mmol acid per gram chitosan and most preferred from 4 to 10 mmol acid per gram chitosan. Higher amounts of acid will not change the result in

neither a positive nor negative way, and is therefore considered to be unnecessary.

The heat treatment of the chitosan fibres may be conducted at any temperature above 50 °C.

- 5 The preferred temperature of the heat treatment of the chitosan fibres is between 50 - 250 °C, more preferred from 60 to 225 °C.

The modified fibres according to this invention have preferably an absorption higher than 20 g/g, more preferred higher than 25 g/g and most preferred higher than 30 g/g.

- 10 The wound care device according to the invention may be in the form of a fibre rope, woven, knitted or non-woven sheets or pouches or it may be in the form of an island dressing, with an absorbent centre part based on the modified chitosan fibres and an adhesive film covering and extending further than the absorbent part.
- 15 The wound care device according to the invention may be based on a woven or non-woven fabric comprising the modified chitosan fibres, which is water swellable and gellable.

The wound care device may have a minimum absorption of 0.20 g/cm².

- The absorption of the wound care device according to the invention is preferably
- 20 minimum 0.20 g/cm², more preferred minimum 0.25 g/cm² and most preferred more than 0.30 g/cm².

If the modified chitosan fibres are preferably in the form of a wound cavity filler such as a fibre rope, the total absorption of the rope is more than 20 g/g, preferred more than 25 g/g and most preferred more than 30 g/g.

The wound care device according to the present invention is especially suitable for treatment of leg ulcers, burns, pressure sores, diabetic ulcers, cancer wounds and acute wounds.

In a first embodiment of the invention the acid treatment and the heat treatment
5 is a combined process, according to which the chitosan fibres may be treated with acid under simultaneous heat treatment.

In the first embodiment of the invention the temperature of which the acid treatment is processed is preferably from 50 to 200 more preferred from 60 to 180 °C and most preferred from 64 to 160 °C.

10 In a second embodiment of the invention, the acid is a mixture of at least two acids.

The first acid may be a hydroxy organic acid, which is soluble in the used solvent, preferably glucolic or a hydroxy propionic/butanic acid. Especially preferred is lactic acid.

15 When chitosan molecules are treated with acids of the first type at a temperature below 85 °C, very weak and few crosslinking point between the chitosan molecules are created. This will turn the chitosan from an insoluble form into almost soluble form with very limited cohesion. If the material is sterilised by radiation this will result in an even lower cohesion. Thus, there is a need for
20 additional cohesion. This may be obtained by adding the second type of acid to the treatment.

The first acid is imparting gelling and swelling ability to the chitosan fibres and the second acid is imparting cohesion to the fibres.

The second acid will provide the fibres with substantially insolubility and
25 cohesion. The cohesion may be obtained as a result of intermolecular crosslinking between the chitosan molecules, where the chitosan molecules may form an acid salt with the second acid.

The second acid may be an inorganic sulphur or phosphor acid or any organic acid except hydroxy acids, which is soluble in the used non-solvent. Preferred organic acids may be: Formic, acetic, propanoic, butanoic and propenoic acid. Also halogenated derivative of these such as chloro acetic acid may be used.

- 5 It is preferred that the second acid is an inorganic sulphur or phosphor acid or one of following organic acid: Formic, acetic, propanoic, butanoic and propenoic acid, or a halogenated derivative of these such as chloro acetic acid.

It is especially preferred that the second acid is formic, acetic, propanoic or propenoic acid.

- 10 The first acid may comprise 20 - 100 % of the total acid content, more preferred 40 - 97 % and most preferred 60 - 95 % of the total acid content.

The second acid may comprise 0 - 80 % of the total acid content of the solution, more preferred 3 - 60 %, and most preferred 5 - 50 % of the total acid content.

- It is preferred to let the acid treatment last until the desired level of crosslinking
15 occurs. By reducing the reaction time of the process, the chitosan fibres may have been converted to a chitosan acid salt, but the molecules have not yet crosslinked. This results in more or less water soluble chitosan fibres, which is not desired.

- The process time for the combined acid and heat treatment may suitably be
20 more than 0.5 hours, preferably more than 4 hours, dependent on the temperature of the heat treatment.

If the treatment is prolonged to more than 4 hours, it may be possible to use only acid of the first type, especially if the temperature is below to 85 °C, and still obtain a highly cohesive wound care device.

By combining the above specified first and second acid in the specified amount, the resulting fibres are water swellable and gellable, but still water insoluble rendering it possible that a wound care dressing comprising these modified chitosan fibres may be removed in one piece after having absorbed wound exudate.

- 5 Combinations of acids within each group of either first or second acid group may also be applied.

Especially preferred is a mixture of lactic acid and any low molecular weight organic acid (molecular weight < 300 g/mole).

- Most preferred is an acid mixture of lactic acid and formic, acetic, propanoic or
10 propenoic acid.

The combined acid and heat treatment of the chitosan in this embodiment of the invention may be conducted at a temperature of 50 - 85 °C, more preferred from 60 to 85 °C, even more preferred from 64 to 85 °C and most preferred at the boiling point of the non-solvent.

- 15 In a third embodiment of the invention, the acid treatment is conducted at a high temperature, above 85 °C. When the temperature is kept above 85 °C in the acid treatment, only one acid is necessary to achieve the preferred properties of the chitosan fibres.

- The preferred acid used in the modification of the chitosan fibres of this embodi-
20 ment of the invention is an hydroxy organic acid, which is soluble in the used solvent, preferably glucolic or a hydroxy propionic/butanic acid.

Especially preferred is lactic acid.

Mixtures of acids may also be used.

The temperature at which the treatment is conducted is preferably from 85 to 200 °C, more preferred from 85 to 180 °C and more preferred from 85 to 160 °C and most preferred from 90 to 160 °C.

The used non-solvent can be any non-solvent, preferably with a boiling point
5 above 85 °C. Most preferred is alcoholic solvents such as propanol, isopropanol and butanol.

The duration of the acid treatment depends of the type and quantity of acid, the quantity of water and the temperature. The process time may vary from seconds to several hours. The higher temperature and quantity of acid and water, the
10 shorter time is needed to achieve the desired properties of the chitosan fibres.

The higher concentration of acid during the acid treatment, the shorter time is needed to convert the chitosan fibres.

In a fourth embodiment of the invention, the acid treatment is not conducted at an elevated temperature. After the acid treatment, the fibres are isolated from
15 the acid solution and subsequently subjected to a heat treatment, e.g. in an oven, at an elevated temperature.

In general, the acid treatment will turn the chitosan fibres from insoluble and low absorbent into water soluble, or if the acid treatment is limited, partly soluble and partly water insoluble. The solubility is a consequence of that the chitosan
20 molecules are in the acid treatment converted to chitosan acid salts molecules. Therefore the acid treatment influences the subsequent heat treatment and the performance of the modified fibres.

Acids suitable for this embodiment of the invention are low molecular weight inorganic acids and organic acids such as formic, acetic, halogen acetic acids
25 (such as fluoro or chloro acetic acid), propanoic, propenoic, lactic, acrylic, glyoxylic, pyruvic or a hydroxy propionic/butanic acid, more preferred organic acid such as formic, acetic, propanoic, propenoic, lactic, acrylic, glyoxylic, pyruvic or a hydroxy propionic/butanic acid.

Most preferred is lactic acid.

In this embodiment of the invention one acid or a mixture of two or more acids may be used. Mixtures may be any suitable mixture such as lactic acid and any low molecular weight organic acid (molecular weight below 300 g/mole and
5 soluble in the non-solvent).

The temperature during the acid treatment should be kept so low, that the fibres do not form a gel after the treatment, but dissolve when they are contacted with water.

The temperature during the acid treatment is preferably from the freezing point of
10 the solvent and up to 80 °C, depending on what temperature the fibres start to gel. The temperature is more preferred kept from -10 to 64°C, and even more preferred kept at -10 to 40°C, and most preferred kept at room temperature.

The duration of the acid treatment should be until a sufficient numbers of amine groups have been protonated so the chitosan fibres will form a gel after the heat
15 treatment if contacted with an aqueous liquid. The duration of the acid treatment depend on the amount of water, type of acid, amount of acid and the type, shape or origin of the chitosan.

The size of the chitosan fibres is also important. The larger diameter of the fibres, the longer acid treatment time is needed.

20 The duration of the acid treatment may, depending on the water amount, acid concentration, temperature and chitosan fibres be treated from a few seconds to many hours before the treatment is ended.

If the acid treatment is carried out with 6 % water, ethanol and 7.5 mmol acetic acid per gram chitosan fibres (100 gram non-solvent per 10 gram chitosan
25 fibres), the acid treatment of the chitosan fibres will after only 10 minutes acid treatment at room temperature be almost completely soluble in water.

After the acid treatment the fibres may be washed in an alcohol to remove residual acid, and subsequently dried.

Hereafter the fibres may be subjected to a dry heat treatment. The heat treatment may be carried out at an elevated temperature, preferably from 60 to 250 °C, more preferred 80 to 250 °C and most preferred at 100 to 200 °C.

During the heat treatment, the chitosan fibres will turn from water soluble to water swellable, gellable and substantially water insoluble.

The duration of the heat treatment depends on the temperature of the heat treatment and the choice of acid. If the dry heat treatment is carried out at 100 °C, the heat treatment has a duration of preferably 0.5 to 8 hours, depending on which acid is used. The higher temperature in the heat treatment, the shorter time is needed to convert the fibres from water soluble to swellable, water absorbent and gellable. If the heat treatment is carried out at 175 °C only a few minutes or even seconds are needed to convert the fibres to gellable and more insoluble.

The more severe heat treatment, the less swellable the fibres becomes. The more gentle heat treatment, the more swellable becomes the fibres, and optionally water soluble. Therefore the heat treatment should be optimised so the chitosan fibres after the heat treatment are water swellable and substantially water insoluble.

In this embodiment of the invention, it is preferred to conduct the acid treatment at room temperature with 4 to 10 mmole acid, e.g. 80 % lactic acid and 20 % acetic acid, per gram chitosan, rinse the fibres in ethanol and heat treat the fibres at 160 °C in 10 minutes. The fibres are processed into a non-woven fabric, packed and sterilised.

In a fifth embodiment of the invention the chitosan fibres are first treated with acid, and subsequently treated with a base. In this way, the fibres are first converted to water soluble fibres by the acid treatment, and are then turned into

water swellable but substantially water insoluble absorbent fibres by the alkaline treatment.

In a sixth embodiment of the invention, the chitosan fibres are treated with heat both during the acid treatment and then again subsequently.

- 5 In a seventh embodiment of the invention the amount of acid used is insufficient for a complete conversion of the chitosan, resulting in fibres which are water swellable, water gelling but substantially water insoluble. The resulting chitosan fibres will thus comprise non-modified parts where the absorption is lower but the cohesion is higher than in the parts where the chitosan is fully converted. This
10 combination may reduce the risk of gel-blocking in the fibrous material, as well as the higher cohesion may ease the further processing and handling of the fibres.

- By treated in such a limited way is meant, that the chitosan fibres may only be partly converted into a acid salt, in such a manner that the molecules will expand
15 when they contacted with an aqueous liquid, but still maintain their structure in such a degree, that removal in one piece from a wound is possible.

The process of carrying out this embodiment of the invention is preferably by reducing amount of acid in the acid treatment. By doing this, the acid will not be able to complete the conversation of chitosan into a chitosan salt.

- 20 In this embodiment the fibres may be treated as in the first and the second embodiment of the invention, but only with a minimal amount of acid. The amount of acid is from 2 to 7.5 mmole acid per gram chitosan preferably 3 - 7.5 mmole acid per gram chitosan and most preferred from 5 to 7 mmole acid per gram chitosan.
- 25 The fibres are optionally treated with acids of the first type. The most preferred acid is lactic acid.

In an eighth embodiment of the invention, the used chitosan fibres are "never-dried" chitosan fibres. By using "never-dried" chitosan fibres, the process for

modifying the fibres may be adjusted in such a manner, that water absorbent, gellable and substantially water insoluble fibres still may be obtained after the modification process. This is preferably done by treating the fibres more gentle than if dried fibres were used in the modification process.

- 5 Another way of improving the strength of the chitosan fibres, is coating or impregnating an anionic material onto the modified fibres. Anionic polysaccharides such as carboxy methyl cellulose (CMC), alginate, carrageenan or pectate may be preferred as coating or impregnation material.

In a ninth embodiment of the invention strength is added to the modified chitosan
10 fibres by adding anionic fibres.

In a wound care device more strength and cohesion may be desired. This may be obtained by adding fibres other than chitosan to the device. These fibres may be blended with the chitosan fibres or be woven, or be in separate layers.

These anionic fibres may be fibres such as alginate or carboxy methyl cellulose
15 fibres. When the anionic fibres are added to the modified chitosan fibres, they will, when the fibres are contacted with wound exudate, open up their structure and a crosslinking between the anionic molecule group and the modified chitosan molecule group will occur.

The amount of anionic fibres in a wound care device according to the present
20 invention is preferably between 5 and 60 % and more preferred between 10 and 50%.

The process of adding anionic fibres could be any suitable process, one example of such a process could be by carding both the modified chitosan and the anionic fibres into a carded fibre mixture.

25 An other way of manufacturing could be to make yarn of both the modified chitosan and the anionic fibres and weave the fibres into a woven fabric.

In a tenth embodiment of the invention, the modified chitosan fibres are mixed with unmodified chitosan, cotton, wool or viscose fibres or the like, and processed into a woven or non-woven fabric, obtaining a product which is water insoluble and low absorbent cotton, wool or viscose and water gellable, water
5 swellable, highly water absorbent and substantially water insoluble modified chitosan fibres.

The above mentioned fabric may be manufactured by mixing the chitosan and the other fibres before or after the modification of the chitosan. The fibres may be spun into a yarn of e.g. cotton and chitosan, comprising preferably 5 - 95 %
10 modified chitosan and more preferably 10 - 90 % modified chitosan, and most preferred 25 - 75 %, depending on the use of the fabric.

If the fabric is to be used for low exuding wounds, a dressing with a low amount of modified chitosan fibres is desired, but if the fabric is to be used on highly exuding wounds, a higher amount of modified chitosan fibres is requested.
15 The process of preparing this embodiment of the invention may be the same process as described in the 9th embodiment of the invention.

An other process of preparing the wound care device may be to process chitosan fibres into yarn and then modify the chitosan yarn to obtain yarn of modified chitosan. The yarn is weaved with any of the above described nonionic fibres.
20 In both the ninth and the tenth embodiment of the invention less cohesive modified chitosan fibres may be used, as the added non modified chitosan fibres will provide strength and cohesion to the resulting wound care device.

In an eleventh embodiment of the invention the chitosan material may be present in the form of powder, then first modifying chitosan powder with acid and heat,
25 and then process the modified powder particles into fibres. The modified fibres are subsequently processed into a wound care device.

In a twelfth embodiment of the invention the modified chitosan fibres are processed into a non-woven fabric. The non-woven fabric may be formed by

randomly laying, for example dry-laying, and/or cross-laying the fibres followed by needling. Alternatively a non-woven fabric may be formed by cross-laying the modified chitosan fibres while partially moist, followed by drying, optionally under pressure.

- 5 The non-woven product may be used as a wound dressing or as a wound contacting layer of a wound care product.

In a thirteenth embodiment of the invention the wound care device comprises one or more active ingredients, e.g. a pharmaceutical medicament. This opens for a combined medical treatment of a wound, where the fibres absorb wound
10 exudate and the pharmaceutical medicaments will be applied to the wound. The pharmaceutical medicaments will either be incorporated in the wound care device or migrate to the wound surface and promote its function.

Examples of such pharmaceutical medicaments includes a cytokine such as a growth hormone or a polypeptide growth factor such as TGF, FGF, PDGF, EGF,
15 IGF-1, IGF-2, colony stimulating factor, transforming growth factor, nerve stimulating growth factor and the like giving rise to the incorporation of such active substances in a form being apt to local application in a wound in which the medicament may exercise its effect on the wound, other medicaments such as bacteriostatic or bactericidal compounds, e.g. iodine, iodopovidone complexes,
20 chloramine, chlorohexidine, silver salts such as sulphadiazine, silver nitrate, silver acetate, silver lactate, silver sulphate, silver sodium thiosulphate or silver chloride, zinc or salts thereof, metronidazol, sulpha drugs, and penicillin's, tissue-healing enhancing agents, e.g. RGD tripeptides and the like, proteins, amino acids such as taurine, vitamins such ascorbic acid, enzymes for cleansing of
25 wounds, e.g. pepsin, trypsin and the like, proteinase inhibitors or metalloproteinase inhibitors such as Illostat or ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid, cytotoxic agents and proliferation inhibitors for use in for example surgical insertion of the product in cancer tissue and/or other therapeutic agents which optionally may be used for topical application, pain relieving agents such as lidocaine or chincho-
30 caine, emollients, retinoids or agents having a cooling effect which is also considered an aspect of the invention.

In a fourteenth embodiment of the invention, the chitosan fibres are partly carboxy methylated, and due to this turned from insoluble and low absorbent and into highly absorbent, gelling and substantially water insoluble. This is achieved by treating the chitosan fibres with a water/alcohol solution containing sodium hydroxide and the sodium salt of chloro acetic acid. The treatment is carried out at an elevated temperature.

The temperature and time of the treatment will depend of the concentration of the sodium hydroxide, water and the sodium salt of chloro acetic acid. However a preferred temperature for the treatment may be 40 to 180 °C, more preferred 50 to 140 and most preferred 50 to 120 °C.

The duration of the treatment depends on the process parameters, however the preferred reaction time is from 1 minute to 24 hours.

If the fibres are completely carboxy methylated, the fibres will become water soluble and thus not useful as such in a wound care dressing demanding coherence. Therefore it is important that the chitosan fibres only are partly carboxy methylated, so the chitosan fibres become water absorbent, water swellable and substantially water insoluble.

The preferred degree of carboxy methylation should be between 0.1 and 0.9, more preferred from 0.25 to 0.75 and most preferred from 0.3 to 0.6 (the number refers to how many carboxy methyl units there are per monosaccharide).

The process of partly carboxy methylating chitosan fibres could be any suitable process, such as treating the chitosan fibres with a mixture of an alcohol, water, sodium hydroxide and the sodium salt of chloro acetic acid.

The invention is explained more in detail in the working examples below disclosing embodiments and properties of the wound care device of the invention. It is evident that many variations may be made without diverging from the invention the scope of which is set forth in the appended claims.

EXAMPLES:**Method of measuring absorption of free fibres in water**

A weighted (W1) amount (app. 0.2 grams) of the fibre sample was cut and put into a bag made of polyethylene net. Then the sample was placed in a vessel
5 containing excess amounts of solution A (142.5 mM NaCl and 2.5 mM CaCl₂). After one hour the sample was removed from the solution and held over the solution for ½ minute, whereafter the weight was measured (W3) and the sample was returned into the vessel. After 24 hours, again the weight of the sample was measured as before (W4). The weight of a wet, empty PE-net bag was also
10 measured (W2). W2 is a average value of 10 measurements.

The absorption of the fibre sample was calculated as:

Absorption after 1 hour (g/g):

$$(W3-W2-W1)/W1$$

Absorption (after 24 hours) in g/g:

15 $(W4-W2-W1)/W1$

The absorbency of a non-woven fabric:

A piece of 4x4 cm was cut and weighted (W1). The sample was put into a petri dish containing excess solution A for 4 hours. Hereafter the sample was removed and allowed to drip off for ½ minute, whereafter the weight was measured (W2).

20 The absorption (in g/cm²) was calculated as:

$$(W2-W1)/16$$

Cohesion of the modified chitosan fibres:

This test method is a qualitative measurement of the gellability, solubility and cohesion of wet fibre samples.

25 A fibre sample was soaked saline water (solution A) for 24 hours. After the 24 hours, the sample was qualitatively evaluated and categorised into one of following categories:

0 The sample is completely water soluble. The absorption is not measurable as the sample dissolves out of the PE-net.

1 The sample is almost water soluble with only limited gellability. The cohesion of the gel is extremely low. The absorption may be measurable, but still some parts
5 of the sample may have dissolved out of the PE-net.

2 The sample is partly water swellable and partly gellable. Some chitosan molecules seems to dissolve (the gel is greasy). The fibre structure is slightly visible after absorption. The gelled mass has some cohesion, so removal in one piece may be possible.

10 3 The sample is gelled. The fibres are cohesive, water swellable and transparent. The gelled fibres still maintain their fibre structure and removal in one piece is easy to obtain. The fibres are no longer greasy.

4 The sample is partly gellable and partly water insoluble. The sample is more transparent than untreated fibres and have a very high cohesion. If pressure is
15 put on the fibres, clear fibres, "dry fibres", can be seen. It may be possible to separate single fibres from the sample.

5 The sample is water insoluble with only minimal swellability.

In the wound care device according to the present invention the preferred cohesion of the modified chitosan fibres are in the area of 2 or 3 in the above
20 categories. If a modified fibre sample evaluate to 2 or 3, removal in one piece seems to be possible.

Materials used in the examples:

Chitosan fibres from R C Bio-chemical Co. Ltd., Pusan, South Korea
(The fibres have a degree of deacetylation of above 90 %)

25 Chitosan powder (TM 370, particles < 100 micro) from Primex ingredients,
Norway

- 100 % acetic acid (glacial) from Merck.
- 90 % lactic acid from Merck.
- Sodium hydroxide from Merck.
- Calcium alginate fibres (SeaSorb filler) from Coloplast A/S, Denmark
- 5 Carboxy methyl cellulose fibres (Aquacel) from ConvaTec, Ltd, UK.
- Distilled water.
- 96 % Ethanol from Danisco, Denmark.
- 1-Propanol from Merck.
- 1-Butanol from Merck.
- 10 Solution A (142.5 mM NaCl and 2.5 mM CaCl₂ in distilled water).

EXAMPLE 1a:

Chitosan fibres treated with combined acid and heat.

- In a reaction vessel 200 grams of 96 % ethanol was mixed with 12 grams of water and 150 mmole acid. To this solution 20 grams of chitosan were added
- 15 and the suspension was treated at the boiling point of the suspension for app. 4 hours under reflux. The fibres were then washed twice in ethanol. Each sample was sterilised by 1*30 kGy electron beam. Hereafter the absorption and cohesion of the fibres were measured.

- Table 1 is showing the absorption and cohesion of the samples, measured on
- 20 sterilised samples. The absorbency was measured as double measurements.

TABLE 1:

Sample	Mole % acetic acid*	Absorption (g/g) 1 hour	Absorption (g/g) 24 hours	Cohesion (category)
1a	0	29	56	1-2
1b	10	37	55	2
1c	20	22	50	2-3
1d	30	21	31	3
1	50	12	12	4
1f	80	8	8	5
1g	100	4	4	5

* Of total acid content. The remaining acid content was lactic acid.

The dry modified chitosan fibres were relative soft and suitable for incorporation
5 in wound care devices such as wound dressings.

Example 1a is showing, that the higher concentration of acetic acid used in the
treatment of the fibres, the less absorbent and the more insoluble the fibres
becomes. The optimal wound dressing has a maximum absorption, but just
enough acid of the second type which gives the fibres insolubility, so the wound
10 dressing can be removed in one piece from a wound.

EXAMPLE 1b:

Preparation of a wound dressing.

A tow of sample 1c (non-sterile) was cut to 50 mm lengths and a wound dressing
was formed by first carding the cut fibres to form an approximate 20 g/m² web,
15 then cross folding the this web needling to provide a resultant non-woven fabric
of approximately 100 g/m², then a 10 cm x 10 cm square was cut to form the
fabric. The fabric square was packaged and sterilised using an electron beam
dose of 30 kGy.

The non-woven wound care product had an absorbency of 51 g/g and 0.52
20 g/cm².

Alternatively the tow itself may be cut for example to 40 cm lengths, packed and sterilised. Hereafter it may be used as a wound cavity filler.

EXAMPLE 2a:

Chitosan fibres treated with acid and heat.

- 5 In a reaction vessel 200 grams of 96 % ethanol was mixed with 150 mmole lactic acid. To this solution 20 grams of chitosan were added and the suspension was treated at the boiling point of the liquid for app. 4 hours under reflux. The fibres were then washed twice in ethanol. The sample was sterilised by 1*30 kGy electron beam. Hereafter the absorption and cohesion of the fibres were
- 10 measured.

Table 2 is showing the absorption and cohesion of the sample (measured as triple measurements).

TABLE 2:

Sample No.	Absorption (g/g) 1 hour	Absorption (g/g) 24 hours	Cohesion (category)
2	27	47	2

- 15 The modified fibres were soft and flexible and very suitable for wound dressings.

Example 2 demonstrates, that the amount of water has an limited influence on both the absorption and cohesion of the fibres, when they are treated at the boiling point of the ethanol. When the fibres are treated without additional water in the reaction vessel, the absorption decreases and the cohesion increases

20 slightly.

EXAMPLE 2b:

Preparation of a non-woven fabric.

A non-sterile sample of sample 2a was cut to 50 mm lengths and a wound care device was formed by first carding the cut fibres to form an approximate 20 g/m² web, then cross folding the web needling to give a resultant non-woven fabric of approximately 100 g/m², then a 10 cm x 10 cm square was cut to form a fabric. The fabric was packed and sterilised using an electron beam dose of 30 kGy.

The non-woven wound care product had an absorbency of 49 g/g and 0.49 g/cm².

- 10 Alternatively, the tow itself is cut for example in 40 cm lengths, may be packed and sterilised. Hereafter it may be used as a wound cavity filler.

EXAMPLE 3:

Chitosan fibres treated with acid at low temperature and subsequently heat treated.

- 15 Solutions containing 50 gram 96 % ethanol, 2.5 gram water and 35 mmole acid (mixtures of acetic and lactic acid) were prepared. To these solutions, 5 gram chitosan fibre sample was added and the samples were treated in the solutions at room temperature for 24 hours. Then the fibres were rinsed in 96 % ethanol and dried. When the samples were dry, they were heat treated for 6 hours at 100 °C in an oven. Finally, the samples were sterilised by beta irradiation (1*30 kGy).

The absorption and cohesion of the samples were measured and the result is shown in Table 3 (based on triple measurements).

TABLE 3.

Sample No.	Mole % acetic acid*	Absorption (g/g) 24 hours	Cohesion (category)
1a	100	12	4
1b	80	15	2
1c	60	9	1
1d	20	0	0
1	0	0	0

* Of total acid content. The remaining acid content was lactic acid.

This example also shows, that the optimal quantity of the first acid is not is the
5 same for chitosan fibres treated with acid and a subsequently heat treatment, as
for fibres treated with heat during the acid treatment. When the chitosan fibres
are treated with acids at low temperature, with a subsequent heat treatment of
100 °C, the amount of the first acid should be kept below 40 %.

EXAMPLE 4:

10 Chitosan fibres treated with acid at low temperature and a subsequent heat
treatment.

A solution containing 100 gram 96 % ethanol, 5 gram water, 2 gram acetic acid
and 0.8 gram 90 % lactic acid was prepared. To this solution, 5 gram chitosan
fibre sample was added and the sample was treated in the solution at room
15 temperature for 1 hour. After the treatment the fibres were rinsed in 96 % ethanol
and dried. When the sample was dry, it was heat treated at different tempera-
tures and periods in an oven. At last the samples were sterilised using beta
irradiation (1*30 kGy).

Table 4a is showing the absorption after 24 hours of the samples heat treated at
20 different temperatures and periods.

TABLE 4a:

Temp. Time	80 °C	110 °C	140 °C	170 °C
0 minute	17			
1 minute	X*	X	X	15
2 minutes	X	X	X	16
5 minutes	X	X	X	11
15 minutes	X	X	18	11
½ hour	X	15	11	9
1 hour	14	15	9	< 10
2 hours	13	16	16	< 10
4 hours	12	15	12	X
8 hours	13	15	< 10	X

* When X is stated, the absorption was not measured

Table 4b shows the cohesion of samples heat treated at different temperatures
5 and times.

TABLE 4b

Temp. Time	80 °C	110 °C	140 °C	170 °C
0 minute	0-1			
1 minute	X*	X	X	2-3
2 minutes	X	X	X	3
5 minutes	X	X	X	4
15 minutes	X	X	3	4
½ hour	X	3	3-4	4-5
1 hour	2	3	4	5
2 hours	3	3-4	4	5
4 hours	3	3-4	4-5	X
8 hours	3	4	5	X

* When X is stated, the cohesion was not measured

This example demonstrates, that when the fibres are acid treated at low temperature, a subsequent heat treatment is needed to make the modified chitosan fibres gelling and insoluble in water. If the fibres not are heat treated, they will dissolve when they contacted with water or exudate.

The more severe heat treatment the more water insoluble the chitosan fibres will become. There is also a tendency for less absorbent fibres using a severe heat treatment.

EXAMPLE 5

The influence of the quantity of acid in the heat treatment .

In a reaction vessel 200 grams of 96 % ethanol was mixed with 6 grams of water and different amounts of lactic acid (see table 5). To this solution 20 grams of chitosan fibres were added and the suspension was treated at the boiling point of the non-solvent for app. 4 hours under reflux. Then the fibres were washed twice in ethanol. The samples were sterilised by 1*30 kGy electron beam. Hereafter the absorption and cohesion of the fibres were measured.

Table 5 is showing the absorption and cohesion as a result of the quantity of acid in the combined acid and heat treatment (the results are a average of 3 measurements).

TABLE 5.

Sample No.	Gram 90 % lactic acid in the solvent	Mmole lactic acid per gram chitosan	Absorption (g/g)	Cohesion (category)
5a	16	8	53	2
5b	10	5	16	3-4
5c	6	3	12	4

To obtain highly absorbent fibres, more than 5 mmole lactic acid per gram chitosan is needed. To obtain fibres with high cohesion, the amount of acid should be minimised to below 8 mmole lactic acid per gram chitosan.

EXAMPLE 6

10 Use of different non-solvents in the acid treatment.

A sample was treated as in example 5a, except that 1-propanol or 1-butanol was used instead of 96 % ethanol. Each non-solvent was prepared in such a manner, that there was 7 grams of water per 100 gram alcohol. The acid treatment was carried out at the boiling point of the non solvents for app. 4 hours. After the treatment the samples were washed and sterilised. The absorption and gellability were measured. The results can be seen in Table 6.

Table 6 is showing the absorption and cohesion as a results of the used non-solvent in the combined acid and heat treatment (the results are a average of 3 measurements).

TABLE 6

Sample No.	Used non-solvent	Boiling point of non-solvent (°C)	Absorption after 24 hours (g/g)	Cohesion (category)
6a	Ethanol	78	53	2
6b	1-Propanol	97	48	2-3
6c	1- Butanol	117	43	3

These results show, that the higher boiling point of the non-solvent, the lower cohesion of the modified chitosan fibres is obtained. The results demonstrates 5 further, that when the fibres are treated in non-solvent with a high boiling point, the absorption is minimised, if the process time is constant.

EXAMPLE 6a

Fibres treated with a limited amount of acid at an elevated temperature.

70 grams of 96 % ethanol were mixed in a container with 6.5 and 8.0 grams of 10 lactic acid respectively. To this solution 10 grams of chitosan fibres were added. The container were sealed and placed in an autoclave (125 °C for 70 minutes). After the treatment the samples were washed and sterilised. The absorption and cohesion were measured. The results can be seen in Table 6a.

TABLE 6a

Sample No.	Acid/chitosan (Mmole/g)	Absorption after 24 hours (g/g)	Cohesion (category)
6aa	8	48	2
6ab	6,5	35	3

15 Table 6a shows that it is possible to convert chitosan fibres in a relatively short time by increasing the temperature and that the fibres becomes more cohesive by decreasing the level of acid per gram chitosan.

EXAMPLE 7

4 grams of sample 5a (non-sterile) was mixed by carding with different quantities of calcium alginate fibres or carboxy methyl cellulose fibres. The fibre mixtures were sterilised (1*30 kGy). The absorption and cohesion of the sterile samples were measured.

Table 7 demonstrates the absorption and cohesion for fibre samples comprising mixtures of anionic and modified chitosan fibres (the results are averages of 3 measurements).

TABLE 7.

Sample No.	Type of anionic fibres	Quantity of anionic fibres (grams)	Absorption after 24 hours (g/g)	Cohesion (category)
7a	Calcium Alginate	4	36	3
7b	CM-Cellulose	4	35	3
7c	CM-Cellulose	1	34	3

This example shows, that if the chitosan fibres are mixed with alginate or carboxy methyl cellulose fibres, the cohesion of the fibres increases, while the absorption decreases.

EXAMPLE 8

Chitosan fibres treated with acid at low temperature and a subsequent heat treatment.

A solution containing 100 gram 96 % ethanol, 5 gram water, 6.4 gram 90 % lactic acid and 1.0 gram acetic acid was prepared. To this solution, 10 grams of chitosan fibres were added and the sample were treated in the non-solvent at room temperature for 1 hour. After the treatment the fibres were rinsed in 96 % ethanol and dried at 30 °C. When the samples were dry, the sample was treated with heat. The heat treatment was carried out at different temperatures and periods in

an oven. After the heat treatment the samples were sterilised using beta irradiation (1*30 kGy).

Table 8a demonstrates the absorption and cohesion (absorption (g/g) / cohesion) of the samples heat treated at different temperatures and periods (measured as a triple measurement on sterile samples).

TABLE 8.

Temp. Time	110 °C	135 °C	160 °C
0 minute	soluble		
2 minutes	x	x	soluble
8 minutes	x	soluble	44/2
20 minutes	x	soluble	40/2-3
1 hour	10/1	27/2	17/4
4 hours	10/1	23/3-4	x

The results demonstrate, that the higher temperature the subsequent heat treatment is processed at, the higher absorption is obtainable. Also the duration of the heat treatment is influenced by the heat treatment (the higher temperature, the shorter time is needed to obtain insoluble fibres).

EXAMPLE 9

Chitosan fibres treated with different quantities of acid at low temperature and a subsequent heat treatment.

15 The samples were processed as in Example 8, but with following adjustment:

In Example 9a the only used acid was lactic acid (8 gram 90 % lactic acid per 10 gram chitosan), and in Example 9b the acid volumes were 4.8 grams 90 % acetic acid and 2 grams acetic acid.

After acid treatment both samples were heat treated at 160 °C for 10 minutes.

20 Hereafter the absorption and cohesion was measured.

The absorption and cohesion result are listed in Table 9.

TABLE 9

Sample No.	Absorption after 24 hours (g/g)	Cohesion (category)
9a	43	2
9b	27	3

This example is showing, that when the chitosan fibres are modified in a two step
5 process (acid treatment at room temperature and subsequently a heat
treatment), only one acid is needed to obtain fibres with cohesion enough to
removal in one piece is possible. The example also demonstrates, that the more
acetic acid in the treatment, the higher cohesion is obtained, but the absorption
decreases with increasing amounts of acetic acid.

10 EXAMPLE 10

Preparation of a woven fabric comprising chitosan fibres.

The modified chitosan fibres (sample 9a in Example 9) were processed into yarn,
and a woven fabric was made. The material was cut in squares of 10*10 cm²,
packed and sterilised.

- 15 The woven fabric is suitable as a wound care device, to cover and gel upon a
wound site while absorbing a high amounts of wound exudate.

EXAMPLE 11

Preparation of a woven fabric comprising chitosan fibres and cotton.

- 20 The modified chitosan fibres (sample 9a in Example 9) were processed into yarn
and weaved with cotton to produce a woven fabric (40 % chitosan and 60 %
cotton). The material was cut in squares of 10*10 cm², packed and sterilised.

The woven fabric is suitable as a non adherent wound dressing to place directly on a wound and protect the wound against the secondary wound dressing and from drying out.

EXAMPLE 12

5 Comparing treated fibres and powder.

10 grams of chitosan powder was treated as the fibres in sample 1c (but not sterilised). Figure 1, a colour photo, shows the difference in cohesion between powders and the fibres prepared according to this invention (the fibres and powder are treated exactly the same way and both samples are non-sterile).

- 10 The figure shows both the fibres from sample 1c (non-sterile) and the powder prepared as sample 1c.

The powder is discrete insoluble absorbent particles, while the fibres turns into a cohesive mass. Thus, this example demonstrate that the cohesion may only be obtained by the use of fibres, while the same effect will not be achieved by using

- 15 powderous chitosan. The powder particles are not suitable as the main ingredient in a wound care product if removal in one piece is desired, while the fibres indeed are useful as the main ingredient in a wound care device.

EXAMPLE 13

The maximum absorbency of some selected fibres from the earlier examples.

- 20 The maximum absorbency is measured after 3 days in solution A after the same method as absorption after 24 hours. The absorption is measured on non-sterile samples.

TABLE 13

Sample no.	Absorption after 24 hours (g/g)	Maximum absorp- tion (g/g)	Cohesion (category)
5a	53	70	2
6b	48	47	3

This example is showing that the absorption is increasing in up to 3 days when the cohesion is evaluated to 2. If the cohesion is evaluated to 3, the maximum absorption is reached within the first 24 hours. Samples with lower cohesion may have higher absorption. This is due to the samples swellability, which is higher,
5 when the sample is less cohesive.

EXAMPLE 13b

A non-sterile sample of sample 5a and of 6b was cut to app. 50 mm lengths and a wound dressing was formed by first carding the cut fibres to form an approximate 20 g/m² web, then cross folding the this web needling to give a resultant
10 non-woven fabric of approximately 100 g/m², then a 10 cm x 10 cm square was cut to form the fabric. The square of the fabric was packaged and sterilised using an electron beam dose of 30 kGy.

The sterile non-woven wound care device of sample 5a had an absorbency of 60 g/g and 0.59 g/cm².

15 The sterile non-woven wound care device of sample 6b had an absorbency of 46 g/g and 0.48 g/cm². The wound care device is easily removed in one piece from a exuding wound.

EXAMPLE 14

Prolonged acid treatment.

20 A sample was treated as sample 1a, but the acid treatment was prolonged to 10 hours instead of 4 hours.

The absorption and cohesion is listed in table 14 (as a average of triple measurements).

TABLE 14.

Sample no.	Absorption after 24 hours (g/g)	Absorption after 3 days (g/g)	Cohesion (category)
14	55	74	2

This example demonstrates, that only one acid is needed in the acid treatment when the is conducted at the boiling point of ethanol (below 85°C). It is possible
5 to prepare modified chitosan fibre samples with extremely high absorption compared to prior art.

EXAMPLE 15

This example demonstrates the method of making suberabsorbent gellable, substantially water insoluble modified chitosan fibres by partly carboxy methy-
10 lating the chitosan fibres. A solution containing 100 gram water, 15 gram sodium hydroxide, 45 gram sodium chloro acetate and 100 gram of ethanol was prepared. 10 grams of chitosan fibres were added to the solution and the solution was heated to the boiling point of the solution and treated until the fibres was partly carboxy methylated. After the treatment, the modified chitosan fibres
15 was washed in an alcohol bath containing an acid. The fibres were finally dried.

The fibres were processed into an sterile non-woven fabric (as in Example 1b).

CLAIMS

1. A wound care device comprising chitosan, said chitosan being capable of absorbing liquid to form a swollen, coherent gel, and said chitosan being in the form of fibres having been modified by treatment with acid in a solvent which is
5 not able to dissolve the chitosan fibres and by treatment with heat.
2. A wound care device according to claim 1, characterised in that the chitosan has a viscosity of less than 1000 cP, more preferred less than 500 cP, even more preferred less than 300 cP and most preferred from 40 to 200 cP, measured on a 1% w/w chitosan solution in 1% aqueous solution of acetic acid.
- 10 3. A wound care device according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the proportion between length and diameter of the fibres is at least 25, more preferred more than 80 and most preferred more than 200.
4. A wound care device according to any of claims 1 - 3, characterised in that the chitosan fibres have an absorption higher than 20 g/g, more preferred higher
15 than 25 g/g and most preferred higher than 30 g/g.
5. A wound care device according to any of claims 1 - 4, characterised in that the acid is an hydroxy or acyl organic acid, which is soluble in the solvent used, preferably glycolic, glyoxylic, pyruvic, lactic or a hydroxy propionic/butanic acid.
6. A wound care device according to any of claims 1 - 5, characterised in that the
20 heat treatment of the chitosan is carried out at a temperature of 50 - 250°C.
7. A wound care device according to any of claims 1-6, characterised in that the fibres are manufactured into a fibre rope, knitted, woven or non-woven sheet or pouch or in the form of an island dressing.
8. A wound care device according to any of claims 1 - 7, characterised in that the
25 device comprises from 0 - 60 % of fibres other than chitosan.

9. A wound care device according to any of claims 1- 8, characterised in that the acid is a mixture of at least two acids.

10. A wound care device according to any of claims 1-9, characterised in that the ratio of acid to chitosan is from 2 mmol to 20 mmol per gram chitosan, more
5 preferred from 3 to 15 mmol acid per gram chitosan and most preferred from 4 to 10 mmol acid per gram chitosan.

11. A wound care device according to any of claims 1-9, characterised in that the ratio of acid to chitosan is from 2 to 7.5 mmole acid per gram chitosan, more preferred 3 - 7.5 mmole acid per gram chitosan and most preferred from 5 to 7
10 mmole acid per gram chitosan.

12. A method of preparation of a wound care device comprising chitosan being capable of absorbing liquid to form a swollen, coherent gel, said method comprises the steps of
a) suspending the chitosan in the form of fibres in a non-solvent comprising acid
15 b) isolating the resulting modified chitosan fibres from the non-solvent
c) treating the chitosan fibres with heat during step a) or/and b).

13. A method of preparation of a wound care device according to claim 12, characterised in that the fibres are manufactured into a fibre rope, knitted, woven or non-woven sheet or fabric.

1/1

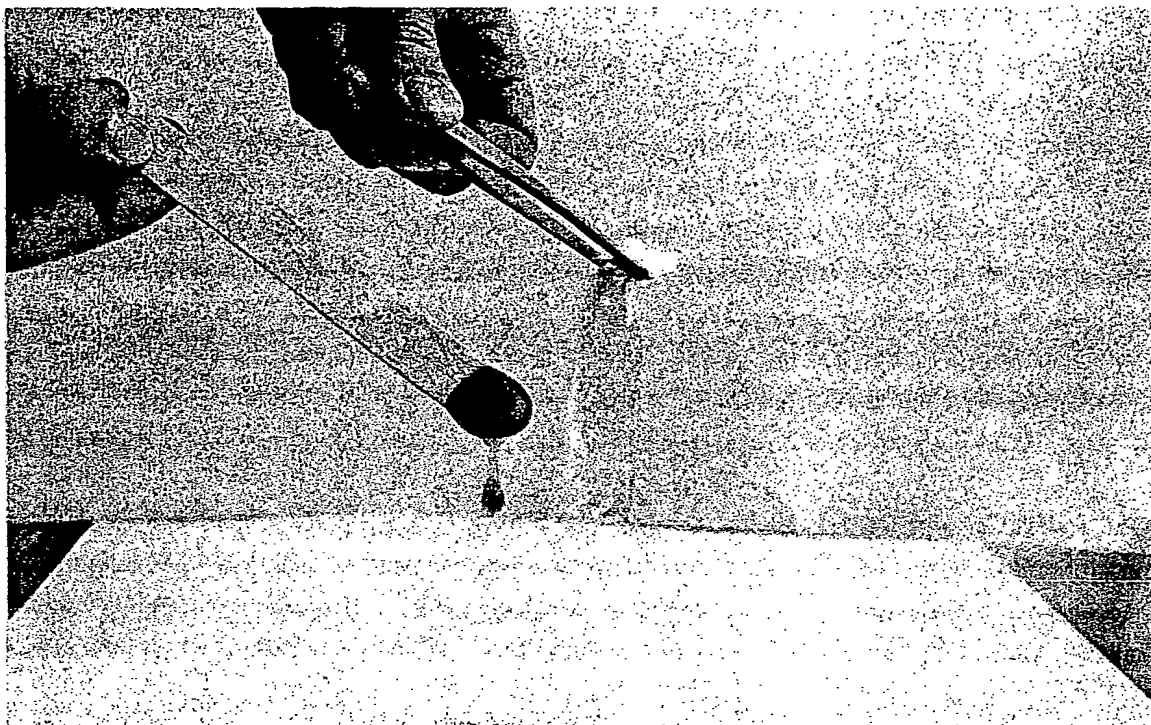


Fig. 1

PCT

REQUEST

PV The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

For receiving Office use only

International Application No. PCT/DK 00/00557

- 4 OCTOBER 2000

International Filing Office Danish Patent and Trademark Office

PCT-International Application

Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

Applicant's or agent's file reference
(if desired) (12 characters maximum) 99016-WO

Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION

Wound care device

Box No. II APPLICANT

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

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This person is applicant for the purposes of:

☐ all designated States

☒ all designated States except the United States of America

☐ the United States of America only

☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

Brian Nielsen
Bolvaerket 89
DK-3400 Hilleroed
Denmark,

This person is:

☐ applicant only

☒ applicant and inventor

☐ inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (that is, country) of nationality:

DK

State (that is, country) of residence:

DK

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

☐ all designated States

☐ all designated States except the United States of America

☒ the United States of America only

☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

☐ Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet.

Box No. IV AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as:

☐ agent

☒ common representative

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)

Coloplast A/S
Holtedam 1
DK-3050 Humlebaek
Denmark

Att.: Patent Department, Mette Winther Sørensen

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+45 49 11 11 11

Facsimile No.

+45 49 11 18 49

Teleprinter No.

41.175 cinter

☐ Address for correspondence: Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.

Box No.V DESIGNATION OF STATES

The following designations are hereby made under Rule 4.9(a) (mark the applicable check-boxes; at least one must be marked):

Regional Patent

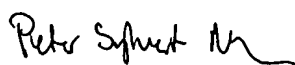
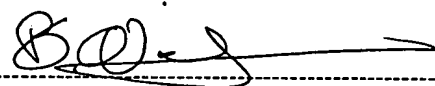
- ☒ **AP** ARIPO Patent: GH Ghana, GM Gambia, KE Kenya, LS Lesotho, MW Malawi, MZ Mozambique, SD Sudan, SL Sierra Leone, SZ Swaziland, TZ United Republic of Tanzania, UG Uganda, ZW Zimbabwe, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT
- ☒ **EA** Eurasian Patent: AM Armenia, AZ Azerbaijan, BY Belarus, KG Kyrgyzstan, KZ Kazakhstan, MD Republic of Moldova, RU Russian Federation, TJ Tajikistan, TM Turkmenistan, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Eurasian Patent Convention and of the PCT
- ☒ **EP** European Patent: AT Austria, BE Belgium, CH and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein, CY Cyprus, DE Germany, DK Denmark, ES Spain, FI Finland, FR France, GB United Kingdom, GR Greece, IE Ireland, IT Italy, LU Luxembourg, MC Monaco, NL Netherlands, PT Portugal, SE Sweden, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the European Patent Convention and of the PCT
- ☒ **OA** OAPI Patent: BF Burkina Faso, BJ Benin, CF Central African Republic, CG Congo, CI Côte d'Ivoire, CM Cameroon, GA Gabon, GN Guinea, GW Guinea-Bissau, ML Mali, MR Mauritania, NE Niger, SN Senegal, TD Chad, TG Togo, and any other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contracting State of the PCT (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line)

National Patent (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AE United Arab Emirates | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LC Saint Lucia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AG Antigua and Barbuda | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LK Sri Lanka |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AL Albania | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LR Liberia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AM Armenia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LS Lesotho |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AT Austria | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LT Lithuania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AU Australia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LU Luxembourg |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AZ Azerbaijan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LV Latvia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BA Bosnia and Herzegovina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MA Morocco |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BB Barbados | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MD Republic of Moldova |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BG Bulgaria | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MG Madagascar |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BR Brazil | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MK The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BY Belarus | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MN Mongolia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BZ Belize | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MW Malawi |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CA Canada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MX Mexico |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CH and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MZ Mozambique |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CN China | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Norway |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CR Costa Rica | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NZ New Zealand |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CU Cuba | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PL Poland |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CZ Czech Republic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PT Portugal |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DE Germany | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RO Romania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DK Denmark | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RU Russian Federation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DM Dominica | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD Sudan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DZ Algeria | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SE Sweden |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EE Estonia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SG Singapore |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ES Spain | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SI Slovenia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FI Finland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SK Slovakia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GB United Kingdom | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SL Sierra Leone |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GD Grenada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TJ Tajikistan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GE Georgia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TM Turkmenistan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GH Ghana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TR Turkey |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GM Gambia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TT Trinidad and Tobago |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HR Croatia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TZ United Republic of Tanzania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HU Hungary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UA Ukraine |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ID Indonesia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UG Uganda |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IL Israel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> US United States of America |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN India | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UZ Uzbekistan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IS Iceland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VN Viet Nam |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JP Japan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YU Yugoslavia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KE Kenya | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZA South Africa |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KG Kyrgyzstan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZW Zimbabwe |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KP Democratic People's Republic of Korea | Check-box reserved for designating States which have become party to the PCT after issuance of this sheet: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KR Republic of Korea | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KZ Kazakhstan | |

Precautionary Designation Statement: In addition to the designations made above, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all other designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) indicated in the Supplemental Box as being excluded from the scope of this statement. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit. (Confirmation (including fees) must reach the receiving Office within the 15-month time limit.)

Sheet No. 3

Box No. VI PRIORITY CLAIM					<input type="checkbox"/> Further priority claims are indicated in the Supplemental Box.
Filing date of earlier application (day/month/year)	Number of earlier application	Where earlier application is:			
		national application: country	regional application: regional Office	international application: receiving Office	
item (1) 07 October 1999	[PA 1999 1446] PA 1999 01446	DK			
item (2)					
item (3)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) (only if the earlier application was filed with the Office which for the purposes of the present international application is the receiving Office) identified above as item(s): (1)					
<i>* Where the earlier application is an ARIPO application, it is mandatory to indicate in the Supplemental Box at least one country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property for which that earlier application was filed (Rule 4.10(b)(ii)). See Supplemental Box.</i>					
Box No. VII INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY					
Choice of International Searching Authority (ISA) (if two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate the Authority chosen; the two-letter code may be used):		Request to use results of earlier search; reference to that search (if an earlier search has been carried out by or requested from the International Searching Authority):			
ISA / EP		Date (day/month/year) 08-05-2000	Number DK 99/00133	Country (or regional Office) DK	
Box No. VIII CHECK LIST; LANGUAGE OF FILING					
This international application contains the following number of sheets: request : 3 description (excluding sequence listing part) : 34 claims : 2 abstract : 1 drawings : 1 sequence listing part of description : - Total number of sheets : 41		This international application is accompanied by the item(s) marked below: 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fee calculation sheet 2. <input type="checkbox"/> separate signed power of attorney 3. <input type="checkbox"/> copy of general power of attorney; reference number, if any: 4. <input type="checkbox"/> statement explaining lack of signature 5. <input type="checkbox"/> priority document(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s): 6. <input type="checkbox"/> translation of international application into (language): 7. <input type="checkbox"/> separate indications concerning deposited microorganism or other biological material 8. <input type="checkbox"/> nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing in computer readable form 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify): Copy of ITS Search Report No. DK 99/00133			
Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract: 1		Language of filing of the international application: English			
Box No. IX SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT OR AGENT					
Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request).					
Coloplast A/S					
 _____ NIELSEN, Peter Sylvest Development Manager		 _____ NIELSEN, Brian Inventor			

For receiving Office use only	
1. Date of actual receipt of the purported international application: RO/DK - 4 OCT 2000 (04.10.2000)	2. Drawings: <input type="checkbox"/> received: <input type="checkbox"/> not received:
3. Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application:	
4. Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2):	
5. International Searching Authority (if two or more are competent): ISA / EPO	
6. <input type="checkbox"/> Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid.	

For International Bureau use only
Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau:

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

AMS

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

15 12 2000

PCT

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING
SUBMISSION OR TRANSMITTAL
OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

(PCT Administrative Instructions, Section 411)

To:

PATENTAFDELINGEN

COLOPLAST A/S
Holtedam 1
DK-3050 Humlebaek
DANEMARK

15 DEC. 2000

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 23 November 2000 (23.11.00)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference 99016-WO	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
International application No. PCT/DK00/00557	International filing date (day/month/year) 04 October 2000 (04.10.00)
International publication date (day/month/year) Not yet published	Priority date (day/month/year) 07 October 1999 (07.10.99)
Applicant COLOPLAST A/S et al	

1. The applicant is hereby notified of the date of receipt (except where the letters "NR" appear in the right-hand column) by the International Bureau of the priority document(s) relating to the earlier application(s) indicated below. Unless otherwise indicated by an asterisk appearing next to a date of receipt, or by the letters "NR", in the right-hand column, the priority document concerned was submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b).
2. This updates and replaces any previously issued notification concerning submission or transmittal of priority documents.
3. An asterisk(*) appearing next to a date of receipt, in the right-hand column, denotes a priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau but not in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b). In such a case, the attention of the applicant is directed to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.
4. The letters "NR" appearing in the right-hand column denote a priority document which was not received by the International Bureau or which the applicant did not request the receiving Office to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau, as provided by Rule 17.1(a) or (b), respectively. In such a case, the attention of the applicant is directed to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.

<u>Priority date</u>	<u>Priority application No.</u>	<u>Country or regional Office or PCT receiving Office</u>	<u>Date of receipt of priority document</u>
07 Octo 1999 (07.10.99)	PA 1999 01446	DK	10 Nove 2000 (10.11.00)

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

Marc Salzman

Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
12 April 2001 (12.04.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/24840 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61L 15/28**,
15/60

(21) International Application Number: **PCT/DK00/00557**

(22) International Filing Date: **4 October 2000 (04.10.2000)**

(25) Filing Language: **English**

(26) Publication Language: **English**

(30) Priority Data:
PA 1999 01446 **7 October 1999 (07.10.1999)** **DK**

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **COLO-
PLAST A/S [DK/DK]; Høltedam 1, DK-3050 Humlebaek
(DK).**

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **NIELSEN, Brian
[—/DK]; Bolvaerket 89, DK-3400 Hilleroed (DK).**

(74) Common Representative: **COLOPLAST A/S; Høltedam
1, DK-3050 Humlebaek (DK).**

(81) Designated States (national): **AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ,
DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR,
HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR,
LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ,
NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.**

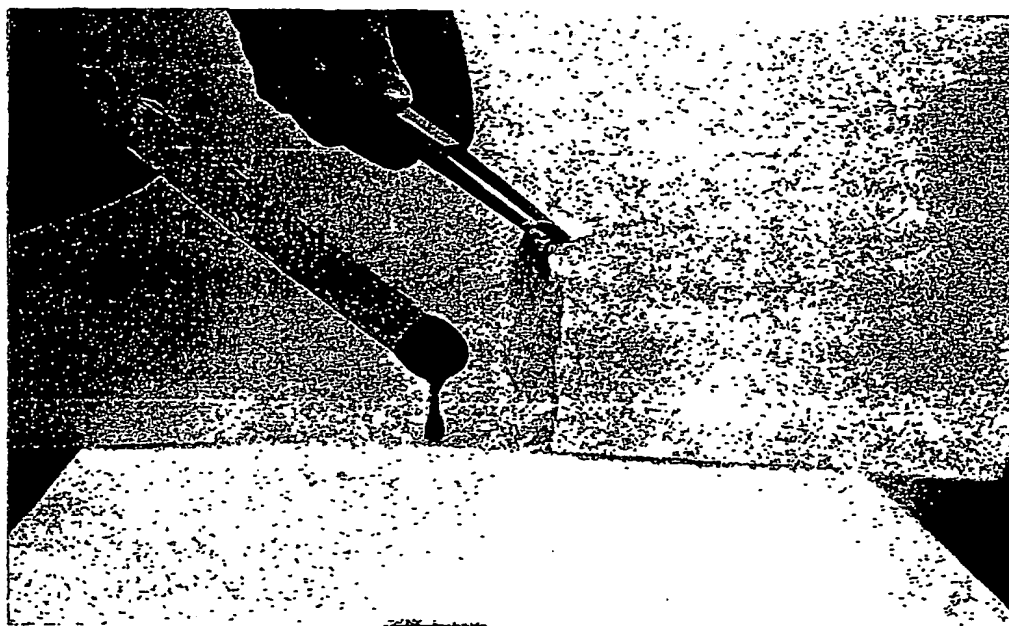
(84) Designated States (regional): **ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,
IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG,
CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).**

Published:

- *With international search report.*
- *Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments.*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: **WOUND CARE DEVICE**



(57) Abstract: Wound care device comprising chitosan, said chitosan being capable of absorbing liquid to form a swollen, coherent gel, and said chitosan being in the form of fibres having been modified by treatment with acid in a solvent which is not able to dissolve the chitosan fibres and by treatment with heat.

WO 01/24840 A1

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 99016-WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/DK00/00557	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 04/10/2000	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 07/10/1999	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61L15/28			
Applicant COLOPLAST A/S et al.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|---|
| I | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Basis of the report |
| II | <input type="checkbox"/> | Priority |
| III | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| IV | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lack of unity of invention |
| V | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| VI | <input type="checkbox"/> | Certain documents cited |
| VII | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Certain defects in the international application |
| VIII | <input type="checkbox"/> | Certain observations on the international application |

Date of submission of the demand 20/03/2001	Date of completion of this report 12.02.2002
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465 </div> </div>	Authorized officer Baumgärtner, H Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8480



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/DK00/00557

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-34 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-13 with telefax of 13/12/2001

Drawings, sheets:

1/1 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/DK00/00557

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application.

☒ claims Nos. 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 (in part).

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 1, 12 (in part) are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
see separate sheet

☒ the claims, or said claims Nos. 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 (in part) are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. .

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Yes: Claims 2-4, 7, 8, 9, 13

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/DK00/00557**

	No:	Claims	1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-13
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

Re Item I

Basis of the report

The amended set of claims filed with fax of 13th December 2001 is in accordance with Art. 34(2)(b) PCT since the amendments do not introduce subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the application as filed.

Re Item III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The following clarity objections are raised/maintained:

1. The terms in claims 1 and 12 "*chitosan [...] capable of absorbing liquid to form a swollen, coherent gel*" as well as "*a solvent which is not able to dissolve the chitosan fibres*" try to define the subject matter by a desired property and not in clear technical terms which would allow to acknowledge novelty - Art. 6 PCT.

2. The expressions an "*acid*", a "*solvent which is not able to dissolve the chitosan*" and "*fibres other than chitosan*" cf. claims 8-11 are so broad that they imply an infinite number of possible agents which would have to be tested as to their usefulness in the preparation of the envisaged product. In the description, however, only a limited number has been described - Art. 6 PCT.

It is particularly pointed to the term "*solvent which is not able to dissolve the chitosan*", since apparently the subject-matter of the present application differs in this characteristic from the prior art documents. However, the description mentions on p. 10/2nd para as most preferred alcoholic solvents under the heading of "non-solvents", propanol, isopropanol and butanol. Those organic solvents are also used in D1, cf. p.3/l.14-19 and preferably those solvents should solve the acid used for the reaction, i.e. not the chitosan (s. infra item V).

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The documents which are referred to in this communication are numbered in the order of their listing in the International Search Report.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/DK00/00557

D1: EP 0 627 225 A2 (H~LS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT) 7 December 1994
s. infra

D2: WO 97 29132 A1 (MERCK PATENT GMBH) 14 August 1997
discloses a **chitosan** preparation under room temperature (cf. ex. 1/p.5) in the course of which **acetic acid** and **acetone** (s. supra item III) are added. After rinsing with water several times and **heating up to 60°C** the organic solvent is removed. A **stable hydrogel** can be obtained. Chitosan can be employed in manifold ways, e.g. in the form of **fibres**, cf. p.4/l.30-34, which serves for instance as raw material for the production of **wound dressings** etc. (p.5/l.4).

D3: WO 98 46818 A1 (BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB COMPANY) 22 October 1998
relates on p.1/l.8-11 to **knitted wound dressings** particularly to wound dressings comprising a **mixture of textile fibres** (cf. p.4/2nd para) and **gel-forming fibres** (cf. para bridging p.4 and p.5). For **absorbency values** cf. p.5/2nd para

Subject-matter (summarized)

Claim 1 A **wound care device** compr. **chitosan** [...] to form a swollen, coherent **gel**,
being in the form of **fibres**
having been **modified by** treatment with **acid in a solvent**
and
by treatment with **heat**

Claim 12 A method of **preparation of a wound device** (s. claim 1)
comprising steps of
a) suspending chitosan fibres in non-solvent comprising acid
b) isolating the resulting modified chitosan fibres **from non-solvent**
c) treating chitosan fibres **with heat** during a) or/and b)

Novelty(i), Inventive Step(ii) and Industrial Applicability (iii) - *Art. 33 (1)-(4)*

N.B.: Merely clear technical information, subject-matter resp. serves as the basis for an assessment of novelty and inventive step. Attempts to characterise the invention by unclear wording/parameters will thus not be taken into consideration and cannot be regarded as novelty establishing features in view of the cited passages of the prior art documents (cf. supra item III).

i.

The subject-matter of **claim 1** and **claim 12** is still **not novel vis-à-vis D1**.

D1 prepares superabsorbents inter alia for the use in pharmaceutical products (p.4/l.17-22) by reacting chitosan powder with an acid in an organic solvent (p.2/l.24-26) in which the acid is soluble (p.3/l.17-18 and cf. supra item III). The temperature range employed is from 15-150°C (p.3/l.34).

Although D1 speaks of chitosan-salts being in the form of very long polymer-chains, it is implicitly interpreted that the resulting product is comparable to the chitosan structure - i.e. fibres - obtained by the process of the present application, since the same reactants/solvents/temperature ranges have been used, cf. the 11th embodiment of the present application on p.15/l.23-26 ("*... chitosan material may be present in the form of powder, then [...] modifying [...] with acid and heat, and then process the modified powder particles into fibres. [...]*")

Equally it is to be noted, that although D1 does not mention the use as a wound care device explicitly, it has to be assumed that the polymer material disclosed in D1 is in fact suitable for the envisaged purpose of the application, thus it is implicitly novelty destroying, cf. PCT Guidelines III, 4.8.

The subject-matter of claims 5 (definition of specific acids), **6** (temperature range), **10** (ratio acid to chitosan) and **11** (ratio acid to chitosan) **is thus equally anticipated by D1** (p.3/l.18 and l. 40-48; p. 3/l.34 as well as p.2/l.30), i.e. **not novel**.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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ii.

The Applicant should be aware that for those sub-claims which are not explicitly anticipated by the prior art documents due to their functional properties, i.e. **claims 2** (viscosity) **and 3** (diameter) **no inventiveness** will be acknowledged, unless the Applicant proves that the values indicated deviate from those to be routinely expected in this technical field.

For dependent **claim 4** (absorption) as well as **claim 8** (fibres other than chitosan) **D3** already indicates that the figures claimed are to be considered as standard values for material prepared in this technical setting (p.5/l.28 and para bridging p.3-p.4/).

The subject-matter of both dependent **claims 7 and 13** (different modes of fibre manufacturing) is not inventive in view of D2.

Finally, the subject-matter of **dependent claim 9** (mixture of at least two acids) does **not** appear to impart an **inventive** step.

CLAIMS

1. A wound care device comprising chitosan, said chitosan being capable of absorbing liquid to form a swollen, coherent gel, characterised in that said chitosan, being in the form of fibres, having been modified by treatment with acid in a solvent which is not able to dissolve the chitosan fibres and by treatment with heat.
2. A wound care device according to claim 1, characterised in that the chitosan has a viscosity of less than 1000 cP, more preferred less than 500 cP, even more preferred less than 300 cP and most preferred from 40 to 200 cP, measured on a 1% w/w chitosan solution in 1% aqueous solution of acetic acid.
3. A wound care device according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the proportion between length and diameter of the fibres is at least 25, more preferred more than 80 and most preferred more than 200.
4. A wound care device according to any of claims 1 - 3, characterised in that the chitosan fibres have an absorption higher than 20 g/g, more preferred higher than 25 g/g and most preferred higher than 30 g/g.
5. A wound care device according to any of claims 1 - 4, characterised in that the acid is an hydroxy or acyl organic acid, which is soluble in the solvent used, preferably glycolic, glyoxylic, pyruvic, lactic or a hydroxy propionic/butanic acid.
6. A wound care device according to any of claims 1 - 5, characterised in that the heat treatment of the chitosan is carried out at a temperature of 50 - 250°C.
7. A wound care device according to any of claims 1-6, characterised in that the fibres are manufactured into a fibre rope, knitted, woven or non-woven sheet or pouch or in the form of an island dressing.
8. A wound care device according to any of claims 1 - 7, characterised in that the device comprises from 0 - 60 % of fibres other than chitosan.

9. A wound care device according to any of claims 1- 8, characterised in that the acid is a mixture of at least two acids.

10. A wound care device according to any of claims 1-9, characterised in that the ratio of acid to chitosan is from 2 mmol to 20 mmol acid per gram chitosan, more
5 preferred from 3 to 15 mmol acid per gram chitosan and most preferred from 4 to 10 mmol acid per gram chitosan.

11. A wound care device according to any of claims 1-9, characterised in that the ratio of acid to chitosan is from 2 to 7.5 mmole acid per gram chitosan, more preferred 3 - 7.5 mmole acid per gram chitosan and most preferred from 5 to 7
10 mmole acid per gram chitosan.

12. A method of preparation of a wound care device comprising chitosan being capable of absorbing liquid to form a swollen, coherent gel, said method comprises the steps of

- a) suspending the chitosan in the form of fibres in a solvent, which is not able to
15 dissolve the chitosan fibres, comprising acid
- b) isolating the resulting modified chitosan fibres from the solvent
- c) treating the chitosan fibres with heat during step a) or/and b).

13. A method of preparation of a wound care device according to claim 12, characterised in that the fibres are manufactured into a fibre rope, knitted, woven
20 or non-woven sheet or fabric.